

9. The system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising:

- a first party information-inputting section for inputting first party information including the number of the shipped at least one product;

- a first party information-transmitting section for sending the input first party information to said first party information-collecting section;

- a product-shipping notice-receiving section for receiving said sent product-shipping notice; and

- a product-shipping notice-displaying section for displaying said sent product-shipping notice.

10. A system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers in which a first party sends products packed in returnable containers to a second party upon a request of the second party to ship the products and the second party sends back the returnable containers of the received products to the first party, said system comprising;

- a server having inventory information databases of the products and the returnable containers;

- at least one first party terminal; and

- at least one second party terminal,

wherein said server, first party terminal and second party terminal are interconnected via a computer network, and said server is programmed to perform the steps of;

- calculating the difference between an actual inventory of the products and a desired inventory level based on the request to ship at least one product and the inventory information database of the products;

- sending a product-shipping notice to the first party via the computer network when the actual inventory of the at least one product is found to be below a first predetermined level;

- calculating the difference between the actual inventory of the returnable containers and the desired inventory level based on the request to ship at least one product and the inventory information database of the returnable containers; and

- sending said returnable container-returning notice to the second party via the computer network when the actual inventory of the returnable containers is found to

be below a second predetermined level.

11. The system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said first party terminal is programmed to display a notice urging the first party to make available the products upon receiving said product-shipping notice.

12. The system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said second party terminal is programmed to display a notice urging the first party to send back the returnable container to the first party upon receiving said returnable container-returning notice.

13. The system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said second party terminal is programmed to transmit data input by the second party to the server indicating a number of the returned returnable containers, said first party terminal is programmed to transmit the data indicating a number of the shipped products input by the first party, and the server is programmed to renew the inventory information databases of the products and the returnable containers based on the received number of the returned returnable containers and the shipped products.

14. The system for managing physical distribution of products and returnable containers as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said computer network is Internet.